

Lisa Cataldi

From: Louise Tripoli <latripoli.401@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:06 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: HB 6396 Against

To: Rhode Island Legislators
Re: HB6396 Against

I would like to go on record as being against this bill because it bans the selling and purchasing of flavored e-juice/vaping products.

I smoked cigarettes for the better part of 60 years. That's correct. I'm 72 years old and I started when I was 12. That was quite common back in 1960. They were easy to purchase; cheap (\$.25) a pack; and most of the time after school, we were free to roam the neighborhood. Meet your friends and smoke the whole pack before going home.

60 years of smoking is a tough habit to quit. I tried many times. Once I managed a full year. Other times just the length of a pregnancy.

My family begged me to quit and purchased e-cigarettes for me. I preferred the ones that required filling with e-juice. For a couple of years I used tobacco or menthol flavors because I wanted the vape to taste and feel like cigarettes. That's where I was wrong. It wasn't until a couple of years ago that I caved in and tried a sweet tasting candy flavored vape. I loved it. And within a month I was off nicotine for good.

You see the point was, the candy flavor was not associated with tobacco. It didn't taste anything like cigarettes and thus wasn't constantly reminding me of smoking.

Please reverse the current ban. People who started vaping flavors have been going back to smoking cigarettes; and as you know over 400,000 people die due to smoking cigarettes a year.

Sincerely,
Louise Tripoli